

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the objection to the replacement sheet filed on September 30, 2003 is hereby requested. A new replacement sheet is being filed concurrently with this Response.

Reconsideration of the objection to the Specification filed on September 30, 2003 is hereby requested. The document filed on September 30, 2003 was a Preliminary Amendment that included amendments to the Specification. However, to satisfy the Examiner's request, a Substitute Specification is being filed with this Response. Such Substitute Specification is a clean copy of the amendments to the Specification filed on September 30, 2003. No new matter was included.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-11 and 16 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. (US 6,475,131). Claim 1 has been amended and now recites:

A centrifuge having a vertical axis of rotation and comprising:

a centrifugal drum having a feeding tube for material to be centrifuged[,:];

outlet nozzles; and

an emergency off system connected in front of the centrifugal drum, the emergency off system including a feeding system feeding particles into the centrifugal drum in response to an emergency off signal; and

wherein the particles have a larger diameter than a diameter of the outlet nozzles, the particles plugging the outlet nozzles.
Note: deletions are shown as line-outs and additions are shown with underlining.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Yoshida et al. does not disclose "an emergency off system connected in front of the centrifugal drum, the emergency off system including a feeding system feeding particles into the centrifugal drum in response to an emergency off signal; and wherein the particles have a larger diameter than a diameter of the outlet nozzles, the particles plugging the outlet nozzles." Therefore, reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claim 3 is amended to depend from Claim 1.

As stated in the Office Action, claims 12-15 are allowed.

Based upon the above, Claim 1 is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-11 and 16 depend from Claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reason as Claim 1, and for their own limitations as well, and such is respectfully requested.

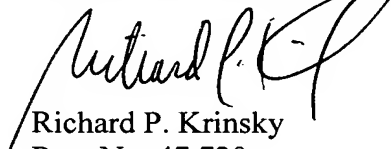
In view of the above, Claims 1 and 3-15 are in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

In view of all of the above, the Application is now in condition for allowance and such is hereby requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (677/41482).

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

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